ARIZONA ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB NEWS

HALLICRAFTERS WAS READY!

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On the Cover:
A Hallicrafters promo for the SCR-299 appearing in the February 1944 issue of *Radio News.*

ARIZONA ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB NEWS
Vol XVII, No 4 Winter 2000

Arizona Antique Radio Club

The Arizona Antique Radio Club was organized in 1983 for the preservation of the history and artifacts of radio and television, and for the advancement of knowledge and appreciation of radio technology and communication. The Club is a non-profit corporation organized primarily for the mutual assistance of radio devotees and collectors in Arizona. Membership, however, is open to any persons who have an interest in radio and television history, preservation, restoration, and collecting.

Meetings are held from October through May and consist of touring collections, presentations of technical, historical or restoration information, thematic displays of radios and the autobiographical experiences of the members. Our antique radio Swap Meets are scheduled for Spring and Fall meetings. Members of the Board of Directors are elected at the annual business meeting in May. Most meetings are held on Saturdays in the Phoenix and Tucson areas, and when possible, elsewhere within Arizona.

Membership dues are $18 (individual) or $20 (family) per calendar year and provide access to all club benefits including the quarterly issues of the *Radio Club News*. Send dues or membership inquiries to: **Arizona Antique Radio Club, 10513 E. Clinton, Scottsdale, AZ, 85259, phone (602) 860-8951.**

The Arizona Antique Radio Club News is the quarterly publication of the Arizona Antique Radio Club, Inc. It is mailed First Class to current members.

Contributions: submission of articles, news items, fiction, photographs and other materials relating to radio history and collecting are greatly appreciated, particularly if they have an Arizona connection. All members are encouraged to broaden their interest in the hobby by sharing their experiences, opinions, knowledge and observations with the club through its publication. Send materials for publication to **Arizona Antique Radio Club, 2025 E. LaJolla Dr., Tempe, Arizona, 85282-5910. Phone is 480-730-6058.** Email: **lettow@yahoo.com.**

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A.A.R.C. NEWS

MAY MEETING MAY 19

The last meeting of the season will feature a talk by Jeff Thomas about the restoration of Atwater-Kent breadboard radios and a solution he has found for repairing their interstage audio transformers. Jeff is an expert at restoring these radios and will have a dozen or so of his breadboards on display.

The meeting will be on Saturday May 19 at 1 pm. Location is the Val Vista Lakes Community Center, 1600 E. Lakeside Drive, Gilbert. Directions: take I-60 east to Val Vista Drive travelling south. Pass Baseline Rd, turn left at next light onto Lakeside, immediate left into the community center.

For more info call Jeff at: (480) 926-6156.

ELECTIONS HELD

We held elections at our April 21st. meeting. Re-elected to the Board of Directors for 2 year terms were Bill Lettow and Steve Smith. Jeff Thomas was newly elected to the Board and Martin Bergan retired from the Board.

President George Fathauer announced a Board meeting to be held on May 19, immediately following the regular club meeting. The Board will choose officers for the coming year at that time.

E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

As you may have noticed the club began notifying members of upcoming events by e-mail recently. We have valid e-mail addresses for about two-thirds of our members at this time.

E-mail is a great time and money saver for the club, and it opens up some new possibilites for the future.

Please, if you have not received e-mail notices of recent meetings and you would like to, send you e-mail address to Secretary Dennis Craft at dcraft@qwest.net. Also send Dennis any changes you may have in your e-mail or physical addresses.

Although we will attempt to send annoucements by mail to those without e-mail, it is unclear how long we may be able to do this because of the difficulty in finding someone willing to do the job.

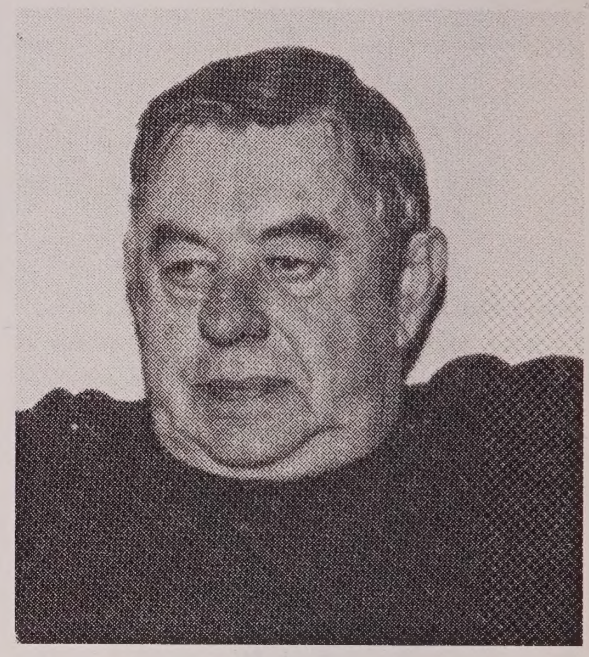
THIS ISSUE A BIT THIN

This issue of the *Radio Club News* is incredibly late and a bit thinner than usual. The Editor apologizes for the lateness, but the size of the issue is due to a lack of material submitted by members.

Remember that the goal of this publication for the last 17 years has been to provide a place for our members to share items of interest with each other. If we have nothing to share than we ought to consider whether or not we want to continue this publication in the future.

Charter Member Forrest Pearce 1921 - 2000

Remembered by Clyde Watson



Forrest Pearce (1989 photo)

Forrest Pearce, one of the charter members of the Arizona Antique Radio Club, passed away December 20, 2000. A memorial service was held at the Tucson Estates community center in Tucson, January 4, 2001.

Forrest was a charter member of the Arizona Antique Radio Club when it was formed in March of 1983. In recognition of his activity representing the club in Tucson and inspiring other collectors, he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in 1996. His service to the club was one of an assumed leadership, since the club in the earlier days had not yet designated, as an officer title, a position for better coordination of activities with our Tucson members.

Unfortunately, many of our more recent members may not have had an opportunity to know Forrest as a member. He and his wife Barbara hosted a club meeting at their home in Tucson in November of 1989. In addition to conducting a seminar on trouble shooting radio repair problems, the members had a chance to see his workshop and a fine collection of numerous horn speakers and radios, built largely around his special interest in battery sets.

At that time, in 1989, Forrest was beginning to experience health problems and with a move to a smaller home in the mountains west of Tucson, had already begun to downsize his collection.

He and Barbara continued to attend the club's swap meets until a few years ago, disposing of most items in his collection but maintaining a small workshop in which Forrest could continue to repair and play out his interests. The trips to club meetings from Tucson, however, became more difficult in recent times with the lost opportunity for gaining new acquaintances or for contact with continuing members.

At the January memorial service,

family photos and mementos reminded those attending of the life of Forrest and what was of importance to him. One of his few remaining sets, a Grebe MU-1 was on display as was his framed Honorary Life Membership award from the club. The family seemed pleased that Lois and I attended, and that I spoke of our remembrances of Forrest and Barbara in our contacts in club activities. Our comments seemed to please the family as an acknowledgment by others of Forrest's interest in radio restoration and collecting, and in the pleasure of knowing him as a fellow club member.

As with most members in such a club as ours, it is often regrettable that we tend to know little about the other members aside from our common collecting and/or selling interests. Sometimes we gain more extended knowledge as individuals invite the club to meet at their residence and see their collection, or perhaps over time through chance opportunities gain further insights about a career, family or other interests.

Unknown for most of us is Forrest's service in the Arizona House of Representatives, and the important role he played in procuring for the University of Arizona the Medical School and its first facilities. His term of service as a representative from Tucson was in the late 1950s and into the 1960s. It is said, that among his colleagues in the House he was known as a "Fearless Fosdick" after a less-than-timid character in the Dick Tracy comic strip. The family remembrance is that he and a small group of legislators from Tucson were able to get their colleagues from Flagstaff to form a majority in deciding to award the Medical School to Tucson and the U of A.

Also, on display at the service was a letter indicative of a close relationship Forrest had in working at the local level with Senator Morris Udall. It referred to their continuing efforts to get the Central Arizona Water Canal through Congress, which we know eventually came to pass.

At the memorial, some attendees spoke of Forrest's helping hand to those in need of a chance to prove they could become a productive working member of society. This was largely related to taking in rather unpromising individuals and training them to become skilled employees in the business he and Barbara had in Tucson. The Pearce Radio and Appliance business, in addition to selling and repairing all such items, specialized in air-conditioning and was successful in competing with much larger and entrenched businesses.

On my first meeting with Forrest, I recall an impression of him being a somewhat gruff person. I soon learned that was a false impression, initiated in part by his quiet humor. Those who had the chance to know him found him to be a most kind-hearted and generous person, one who could get things done as evidenced by his influence in public affairs and private dealings.

Forrest was a great person to know.

Emery Kolb and Barry Goldwater Shoot the Rapids in a Tiny Boat on

Ripley's Believe It Or Not!

Historical Use of Radio on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon Part II

by Q.S.O. Abyssus

When we last left our history of radio use in the Grand Canyon, transistors had not yet been invented, and the only blasters in the Canyon were still the rapids. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear...

This is the second article on early radio use in Grand Canyon from The Waiting List, *the quarterly publication of the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association.*

It ran in the March 2000 issue and is reprinted here with the generous permission of the author and of the editor of The Waiting List. *For more on the boat club check out www.gcpba.org.*

Believe it or not, but Emery C. Kolb and Bob Ripley planned and completed a broadcast from a boat floating down the Colorado River on Friday, May 17, 1940. A copy of the script, autographed by Ripley "To The 'Father of the River'— Emery Kolb — With Deep Respect," along with other material quoted below, may be found at NAU Cline Library Special Collections and Archives, MS.#197, Emery Kolb Collection.

A memorandum of Emery's states his stipulations for operating a boat "for a short run from the end of Kaibab Trail on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon, Arizona to the end of Bright Angel Trail" with a

broadcaster: that a boat can be built for $50.00 or under; that unforseen circumstances do not arise, such as sickness, storm or high wind, or too dangerous water; that transportation costs be paid by Ripley; and that Ripley supply life jackets if he would be unable to borrow them. The only remuneration Kolb requested "would be suitable and accurate information given over the broadcast of my river experiences and Canyon explorations, to justify my work and time in the matter."

It is unknown how much Ripley's was willing to pay. An April 9, 1940 letter from Douglas F. Storer, RKO Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, left "the furnishing of the boat, oars, life preservers, and whatever is necessary for the trip up to" Emery ... "Of course, at this time, I can't give you the word to go ahead and buy the equipment or to get the boat, but I thought it would be helpful if I wrote you this in the meantime." In a reply to Storer on April 20, Emery stated that "I have gone into the matter with Mr. Simpson, who is in charge of construction and inspection for the Santa Fe R.R. Co. here and upon his advice that a boat suitable for the work you desire could not be delivered at the river for any where near the figure you are interested in paying. I therefore must consider the matter closed." Storer and Kolb achieved some sort of compromise, even after a Kolb telegram informed Storer that "Ennis of Harvey Transportation will deliver boat fifty dollars packing additional."

Norman Nevills wrote to Emery on April 24, 1937; evidently Emery had previously mentioned boats and radio broadcasts to Norm. "We negotiated with NBC over a lengthy period as to carrying along portable radio equipment and putting on nightly broadcasts. There was much interest, but the technical staff in both Hollywood and New York couldn't see their way clear to oking it because of such complications as wall absorption, etc. We are going to carry our own equipment, I hope, if we can raise the added needed money. Wonder, if by any chance this broadcast you are interested in has anything to do with a test for a possible broadcast within the Canyon, this summer with us? You didn't make clear what the boat would be used for ... We are raising an additional piece of money to provide the means for radio. It is apparently about to be secured alright. Have gotten it by advance remunerations on endorsements." Norm also included lists of supplies and suggestions for assembling a boat at the foot of the trail.

A sketch by Emery shows a possible boat to build, disassemble, and "reassemble foot of trail using [certainteed roof] cement [(plastic)] on bottom side of chine this time. In disassembling leave chine on sides." Sketch indicates that there would be two ribs, each 4' 6" from the bow and stern, of a boat that would be maybe 16' long, with a bottom having a 5' beam and 20" draught, with a stern 50" wide and 12" draught.

Some excerpts from the script of the radio broadcast follow:

"As Bob Ripley would say, greet-

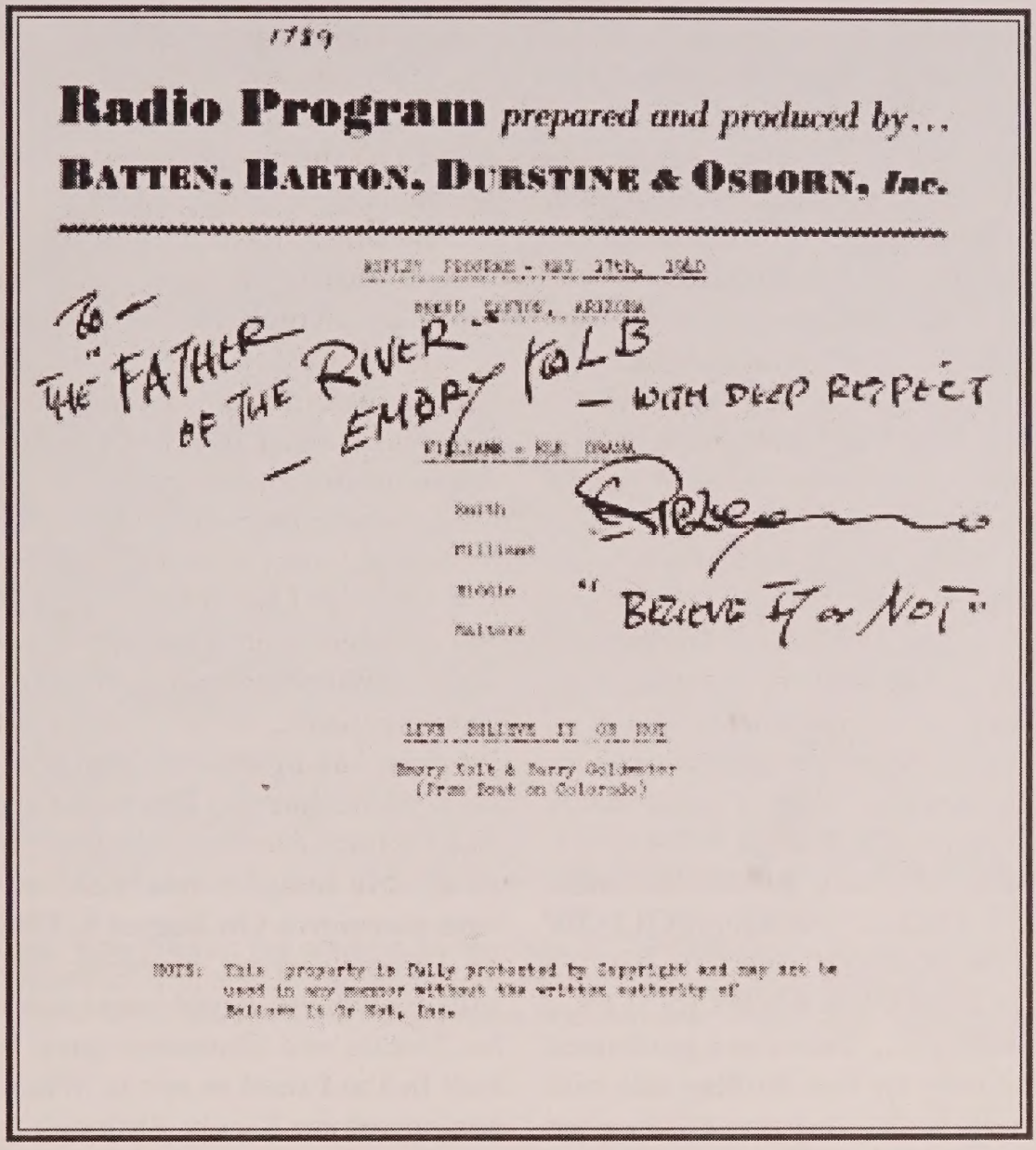
ings everyone and welcome to the program tonight! This is B. A. Rolfe, speaking to you on behalf of Bob Ripley, directly from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in front of the El Tovar Hotel, in Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona. For many centuries the only approach to the Grand Canyon was by foot or horse through forest and over mountain trail. But the Santa Fe Railroad brought our private car right to the rim of the Canyon, a Believe It Or Not in itself. But such easy traveling didn't satisfy Bob Ripley. Two days ago, Bob started down the Canyon trail riding muleback and accompanied by a party of radio technicians and park guides on 25 mules. He made the trip down the steep walls of the Canyon, and is now one vertical mile below me. From the bottom of the Canyon he will present Believe It Or Nots that will amaze you and for the first time in the history of radio he will describe a man shooting the rapids of the unconquerable Colorado. Now our guest announcer, Dan Cubberly" ...

"And here is that Canyon-crashing, creditable, captain-conquistador of continental, climax-capping cornucopias... (INDIAN DRUMS CRESCENDO WITH ALLITERATION AND THEN YELL FOLLOWED BY CUBBERLY:) "BELIEVE IF OR NOT BOB RIPLEY" (CUE FOR SWITCHOVER)

"RIPLEY: Greetings, everyone, and welcome to the Grand Canyon! This is Bob Ripley, speaking to you one vertical mile deep at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the most awesome handiwork of God! It is the world's most wonderful spectacle ... the greatest Believe It Or Not wonder of the Seven Wonders of the World! ...

"And ladies and gentlemen, for the second part of my program, I am going to attempt the most difficult broadcast in the history of radio. Three quarters of a mile from where I am standing, I have microphones set up on the banks of the Colorado River. From that point I will describe the river itself, and then present a Believe It Or Not that has no equal. Emery Kolb, a native of Grand Canyon, will actually shoot the rapids in a tiny boat ... attempting to conquer this fantastic river in that fragile craft. With him will be Barry Goldwater, who will describe his sensations while shooting the rapids. While I am on my way from Phantom Ranch to the banks of the Colorado River, I will switch you back to B. A. Rolfe at the El Tovar Hotel on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon where he will introduce a famous guest and describe the Canyon from above. Take it away, B. A.!

"RIPLEY ... I am now standing on the banks of the Colorado River where I will describe the greatest Believe It Or Not event, the most dangerous and exciting feat that man has ever tried ... to shoot the rapids of the Colorado River! But first, let me tell you about this river. It is an unconquerable river which has literally gnawed the Grand Canyon out of this land about me. At times it reaches the unbelievable speed of twenty-five miles an hour. It is the



1789

Radio Program *prepared and produced by...*

BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE & OSBORN, Inc.

To — THE "FATHER OF THE RIVER" — EMERY KOLB — WITH DEEP RESPECT

Ripley

"BELIEVE IT or NOT"

LIFE BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Emery Kolb & Barry Goldwater
(From Boat on Colorado)

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A copy of the script, autographed by Ripley "To The 'Father of the River' — Emery Kolb — With Deep Respect". NAU Cline Library Special Collections and Archives, MS.#197, Emery Kolb Collection.

most deadly river in the world. One million tons of silt are carried by this river every single day. The river flows down to the Pacific, yet 260 miles below here is the greatest manmade dam in the world! Boulder Dam! This dam backs up the waters of the Colorado into Lake Mead, which will achieve 125 miles in length. Yet, so vicious is this savage, clawing river, and so heavy is its silt deposit, in five hundred years, Lake Mead will be filled up with that silt, and will be a desert, Believe It Or Not! The best way to describe it is to say it is too thick to drink and too thin to plow! In the river, just one mile above me, Emery Kolb is setting out in his small twelve-foot canvas and wood boat. He is the only man in the world who has ever shot the rapids of the Colorado its full 2000 miles length,

braving its treacherous whirlpools, its deadly cross-currents - its vicious rapids. With him, so that you can actually hear the shooting of the rapids from the boat, is our special announcer, Barry Goldwater, of Phoenix, Arizona. In the boat they are keeping contact with us through a special short wave radio, which was supplied us thru the National Park Service, and without whose helpful cooperation this broadcast would have been impossible. They are in the river now ... on the way down, plunging, whirling thru the deadly rapids ... so I will signal my engineer ... who will in turn signal by short wave ... the men in the boat ... Emery Kolb and our announcer, Barry Goldwater ... Take it away, Barry Goldwater. (CUE FOR SWITCHOVER:) (INSERT BOAT BROADCAST PICKUP HERE:) (FOLLOW WITH RIPLEY AD LIB FROM THE BANK OF RIVER INTO:) ...

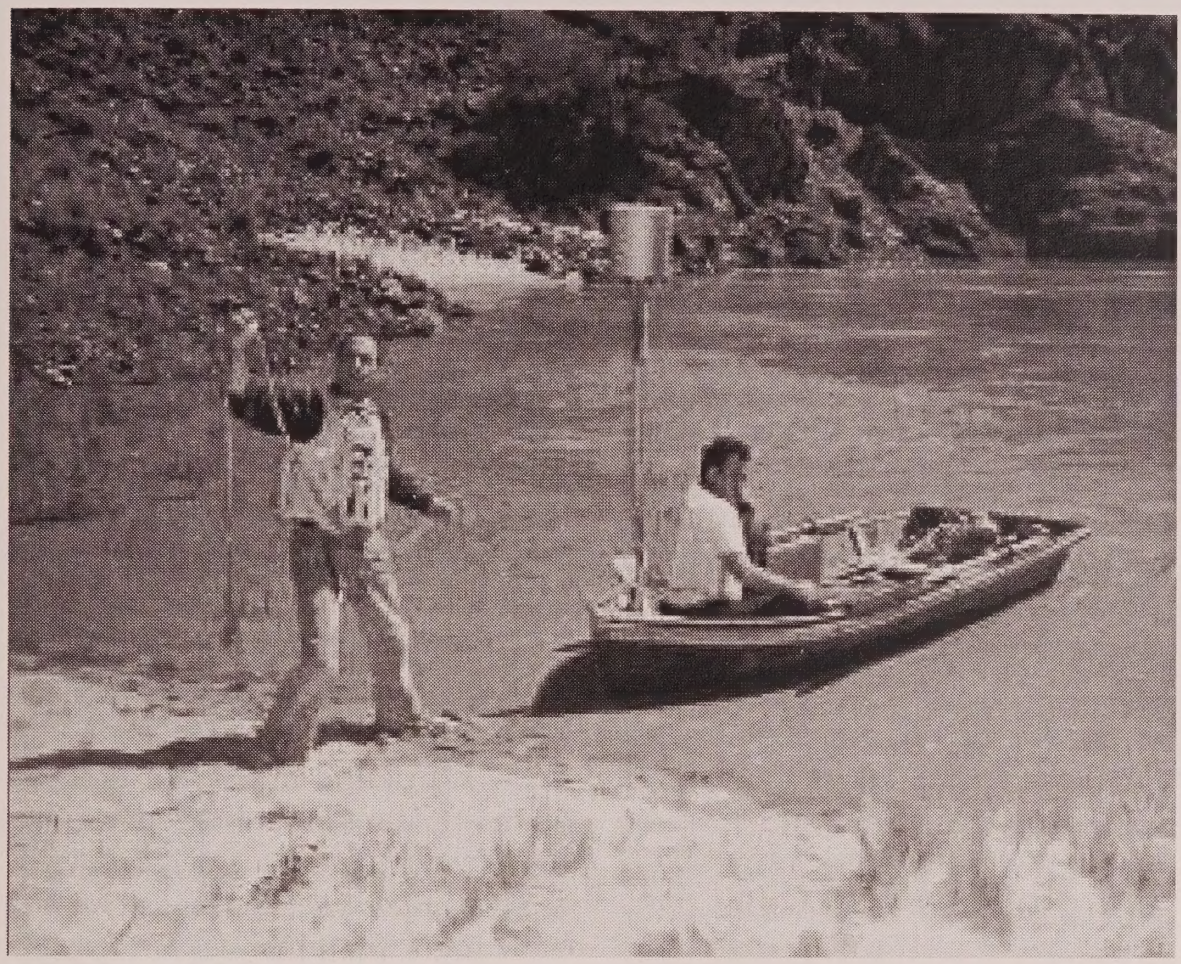
"RIPLEY ... Ladies and gentlemen, I can only say that thrilling ride with Emery Kolb, and our announcer, Barry Goldwater, in their small boat, thru the raging, relentless waters of the deadly Colorado River with its whirlpools, cross-currents and riptide is the most heartstopping sight these eyes have ever witnessed, Believe It Or Not. Now I switch you to the South Rim of the Canyon, to B. A. Rolfe. (CUE FOR SWITCHOVER:)

"ROLFE ...Whew ... Bob, that was the most exciting thing I have ever heard ... and I am sure that our radio audience has never had a thrill like that ... It will take Bob Ripley and his radio technicians the greater part of the day tomorrow to climb Bright Angel Trail to reach the rim, so tomorrow night we will again board our private car and continue on our See America First tour with Bob Ripley."

Addenda

At the 1991 GCRG GTS (Grand Canyon River Guides, Guides Training Seminar) at Marble Canyon, this author prepared a 100-question trivia contest. Discussing the answers around the campfire, I mentioned that I did not know what Goldwater had said during the broadcast. Someone in the crowd quipped: "Goldwater was a politician — he didn't say anything," to uproarious laughter. In his *Delightful Journey Down the Green and Colorado Rivers*, Goldwater gives us a little insight into what may have transpired: On August 9, 1940, on a Nevills' trip, "However, little Mile Eighty-five Rapid broke an oar for Norm, and Zoroaster gave me holy hell as I tried to run it. When I announced for Robert Ripley on his trip into the canyon in May, 1939 (sic), I employed the name Zoroaster Rapid (thinking that there was none by this name and that I would be safe in using it). The others suggested that inasmuch as I had used the name, I should run the rapid. I did. I ran it and although the resulting trip was sloppy, I did nothing more disastrous than run into a wall and bounce off a rock."

When Barry finished his trip with Norm, on September 6 he wrote to Emery: "I had to laugh on our trip when we came to Ripley's ripple,



Emery Kolb holding the antenna for the May 17, 1940 Ripleys's "Believe It or Not!" broadcast with announcer Barry Goldwater at the short-wave radio in the boat. NAU Cline Library Special Collections and Archives, Emery Kolb Collection.

because there wasn't anything there but glassy smooth water. I found the boat about twenty-five miles downstream, as neatly wrapped around a rock as you would ever want to see. I have a picture of it and when I make some enlargements, I will send you one."

The flow on May 17 at the gage for the Colorado River near Grand Canyon (Bright Angel) was 44,400 cfs (peak was May 18 at 45,500); for August 9, 2,740 cfs (low of 2,320 on August 13). Evidently, according to Goldwater's letter, Kolb abandoned the unnamed boat. Twenty-five miles below Bright Angel Rapids at mile 88 (not the actual Zoroaster Rapids at mile 84.5) is the "mini-Bedrock" rapids below Walthenberg at mile 113.

As a post-script to this fun story and also to the first story of this article (AARCN, Fall 2000), Claude H. Birdseye wrote to Emery on July 23, 1940: "I heard Bob Ripley's 'Believe It Or Not' program a couple of months ago and could hear you in your boat above Bright Angel Creek. Also Mr. C. S. Howard of the Water Resources Branch of the Geological Survey tells me that he was at the Survey office

at Phantom Ranch and talked with you at the mess before the Ripley broadcast. I am scheduled to give a short talk on a National Broadcasting Company "Believe It Or Not" program of the Washington group of the Explorers Club next September, and if I talk I expect to use our experience at Lava Falls as my subject. In that, I shall of course give you all the credit for our safety."

Will the real KNDO please stand up!

In this and the previous article on the historical use of radio, we noted four trips on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon that carried radios: the 1923 USGS "Birdseye" Expedition; the 1927 "Bride/Pride of the Colorado" film trip; the 1937 "Carnegie-Cal Tech" geological mapping trip; and the 1940 "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" broadcast with Emery Kolb and Barry Goldwater live from a boat on the Colorado River. But first some notes concerning the previous two installments.

In "Part I," KDKA (920 Pittsburgh) made the first regular broadcasts in 1920, after being licensed in August, 1916, as 8XK (later 8ZZ). Interestingly enough, on February 18, 1921, Warren Gamaliel Harding, the President whose death notice the 1923 river survey trip received, was the first President heard on the radio on, you guessed it, KDKA. On December 6, 1923, Harding's successor, Calvin "Silent Cal" Coolidge, broadcast the first presidential message to a joint session of Congress, his voice being received over telephone wires (http://members.aol.com/jeff1070/chrono1.html).

Los Angeles station KHJ, also heard by the "Birdseye" Expedition, had a slogan in the '20s of Kindness-Happiness-Joy (http://members.aol.com/jeff560/call192x.html), but by the '60s was " Boss Radio" (http://www.drakechenault.com/). KZN (on the air in May 1922) and KSL out of Salt Lake City are the same station with a change of call letters (also KFPT in between). KFFU (Colorado Springs) should probably be KFFQ.

The 1927 "Bride/Pride of the Colorado" film crew ended their trip at Hermit Rapids. Leaving the boats there, the Hyde rescue party of 1928 used at least one in searching for the lost couple. Brad Dimock is currently working on the definitive book on the Hydes, so I'm sure he will fill us all in on those boats.

The Carnegie-Cal Tech trip in 1937 received broadcasts from KNDO at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Michael Quinn, Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) Museum, could not find any information for me about this station. He did, however, supply a photograph of radio operation in Havasu Canyon that will be featured when we get to the heart of the next article.

Using the Internet to search radio station call numbers, I could not find that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ever assigned KNDO. While writing "Part I," a January 6-12, 2000 issue of *Flagstaff*

Live! (Vol. 6, Issue 1) featured "Ham Radio: The Voice Heard 'round the World'" by Bruce Grubbs. Listing the Coconino Amateur Radio Club (CCAC) website (http://www/qsl.net/ccarc/), I emailed a query to Newsletter/Webpage Editor Tom Gewecke (W7THG) who came by to look at the photographs in response to my query about shortwave radios. Because of the lack of image clarity, Tom could not say for sure that the radios were shortwave, but that it was possible.

From CCAC links to radio history sites on the Internet, I contacted Jeff Miller via e-mail, who led me to Tom White. Both are well-known radio historians but both came up empty-handed regarding KNDO, just as I had. White replied that "in 1937, there were only 8 broadcasting stations in the entire state of Arizona: KCRJ-1210 Jerome; KSUN 1200 Lowell; KOY-1390 and KTAR-620 Phoenix; KYCA-1500 Prescott, KGAR-1570 and KVOA-1260 Tucson; plus KUMA-1420 Yuma."

Miller and White posed some possibilities, but not probabilities for various reasons. "Before FM, there used to be 'carrier current' stations broadcast only in dormitories of colleges and these stations had call letters," which the FCC may or may not have known about (Miller). They use very low power, "with their signal fed into the local power lines, thus you can only pick them up if your receiver is located within a few hundred feet of one of the power lines carrying the signal. In the 1930s, most carrier current stations were operated on college campuses. Carrier current stations aren't regulated, thus KNDO would have been a self-assigned slogan, rather than a call sign officially assigned by the FCC" (White).

There were no provisions until the 1970s for anything like the low power Traveler's Information Stations around today; probably not shortwave as the call sign does not match the standard amateur calls, which always included a number in them and that hams (amateur radio operators) weren't supposed to operate as broadcast stations; and that someone may have set-up a small transmitter "in the middle of nowhere" and never got an official authorization (White).

While visiting the GCNP Museum, Quinn asked me if I had considered that KNDO may have been a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC, or 3-Cs) operation, as they worked at and in the Canyon in the '30s. Mackie Clark, National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCA) Chapter 44, gave me some 3-Cs background information as well as the name of Fred Holsclaw, a radio operator who is also a Chapter 44 member. Although Holsclaw was stationed in South Dakota and not at the Grand Canyon, he was able to supply me with some important information about CCC radio operation. Call letters he gave me for South Dakota CWUCV and WZM) and Nebraska (WVU) used by the CCC are also calls not noted in the historical lists. So, it appears that the FCC may have assigned calls

to CCC radio operations that have never been used prior or post-CCC. Thus, KNDO may have been one of those.

Louis Lester Purvis' *The Ace In the Hole: A Brief History of Company 818 of the Civilian Conservation Corps* (1989, Columbus, GA: Brentwood Christian Press) indicates that there were four 3-Cs companies working for the Environmental Conservation Works (ECW) in the Canyon: 818, 819, 847, and 2833. A CCC alumni website (http://www.cccalumni.org/states/arizona1.html) also includes Co. 843 and lists 2833 as being out of Williams, Arizona. Dates of occupation are by campsite: NP-1 at Grand Canyon North Rim (Neil Spring Canyon (5/1933) to Bright Angel Point near Transept Canyon (7/1933); NP-2 at Grand Canyon Village (5/29/1933); NP-3 (10/1933) at Bright Angel Creek near Phantom Ranch; and NP-4 (10/18/1934) near Grand Canyon Village. Co. 818 left NP-3 in October 1936 for Phoenix. Co. 2833 moved to their summer home at NP-1 in Spring 1937, alternating with their Winter home at Desert View. Other than Co. 818, I do not know when the other companies left Grand Canyon, but it is possible that one of them was at the South Rim in October/November to broadcast as KNDO, a likely scenario. Calls to Purvis have so far been unsuccessful.

A query to the Nevills' girls about whether Norm ever carried radios on a trip resulted in a negative answer. Neither Joanie Nevills Staveley nor Sandy Nevills Reiff can recall that their dad ever had radios on the river. Tom Gewecke also said "that Barry Goldwater was a 'ham' from 1921 on, with his first call sign being GBPI. Later on he used K7UGA, but I don't know when it changed."

Enough static about Parts I and II.

An entertaining addendum to how short-wave radios may be used on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon for emergency purposes is a novel by Walker A. Tompkins, *Grand Canyon QSO* (Newington, CT: American Radio Relay League, 1987). Featuring ham radio hero Tommy Rockford, or K6ATX, in an action-packed QSO (a two-way contact with a fellow ham in the States) filled with adventure, murder, mayhem, and other shenanigans in a search for lost Aztec treasure hidden in a secret cave below Lava Falls: "It's got a good beat, Dick; you can dance to it! I give it a 98.6." And stay tuned for "Part III: Historic Radio Use In the Canyon, Off the River." Same Time, Same Channel.

Radio script excerpts, © 2000 Ripley Entertainment Inc. "Believe It or Not!" ® Ripley Entertainment Inc.

RANDOM THOUGHTS OF A RADIO COLLECTOR

By Larry Stencel

When a seller has rubbed Old English on a radio, "PASS".

UNTESTED really means the piece of junk needs over a $100 worth of work just to get it playing.

The eBay price is NOT my price.

How come all the collectors who say they "hate" catalin radios always ask for them when "garage sailing"?

Why does a collector of 30 years or more always say, "I don't know much about this radio," when he's trying to sell it to you?

Thank God nobody ever asked me to choose between my wife and my hobby.

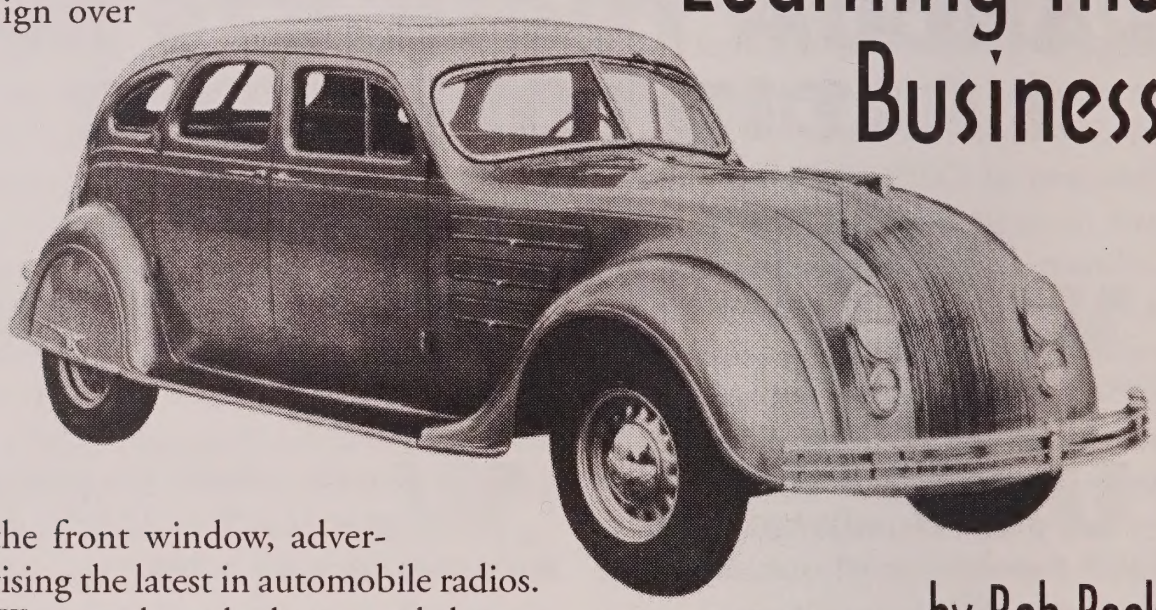
Who ever allowed swap meets to start at 5:30 AM should be banned from the hobby.

How come collectors who want to share their views about their radios values, never want you to share yours with them?

Don't you just hate it when you sell a radio to a collector that tells you, "I just got to have this radio", only to find it on his table at the next swap meet priced at double what he paid you?

There's a fine line between a radio collector and insanity.

Learning the Business



by Bob Reek

In the spring of 1941, as summer vacation from high school began, I answered an ad in the local newspaper for an assistant "to learn the business" in a one-man radio repair shop. I was fifteen and had no formal radio training, but I had built crystal sets from recycled junk parts from radios of the 1930s and found radio to be interesting and exciting.

I rode my Schwinn bicycle over to Schneider's Radio shop for the interview. The shop had a big Motorola sign over the front window, advertising the latest in automobile radios. We agreed on the hours and the pay, (I think it was ten dollars a week). This was my first paying job, and I started immediately to "learn the business".

One of the first tasks was to pay Schneider's electric bill at the utility company a few blocks away. I rode my bicycle on this errand, returning as quickly as I could. When I returned, Schneider, slightly peeved at my extended absence, asked me why I didn't drive his car, an old Chrysler Airflow model, parked by the store. I had a driver's license, but little driving experience, and the last thing I wanted to do was to have an accident driving someone else's car. I think I did drive the car later in the week on another errand.

During the next few days, I learned that most of the job was to sit in the store for hours at a time, to answer the telephone and inquiries from customers who came to the door infrequently, during periods when Schneider was out of the shop. There were plenty of radios sitting around and I explored all the shortwave and broadcast bands thoroughly.

Occasionally a customer would come in the store and buy a Motorola radio for his car. At that time, most cars were sold without radios, (and air conditioning would come much later) so if you wanted a radio in your new car, you had to buy it separately from a radio dealer. Schneider specialized in this phase of the radio business, making a profit on the markup on

the radio as well as the charges for the installation. He installed many radios during the two weeks that I worked for him.

Generally, he would ask the customer to leave his new car in the parking area east of the store for half a day, so that he would have plenty of time to install the radio and trouble shoot any bugs. For my first installation lesson, Schneider handed me a gigantic, heavy electric drill with a huge metal bit that I carried out of the shop. He pointed to a spot near the rear of the fender of a brand new Buick, parked beside the building; I put the tip of the drill bit on the spot and pushed, drilling through the thin sheet metal quickly. (Since the hole was well behind the wheel, there was no danger of drilling through the tire, but he cautioned me to not let the drill go further into the hole than necessary). Then he told me to drill another hole about ten inches below the first one. After drilling the second hole, he gave me a box containing an extendable whip antenna, insulators, and cable, showing me how to assemble the parts on the fender and feed the cable through the firewall, up behind the dashboard.

It was then that I realized that the designers of automobile dashboards never had installed anything in their creations, putting their heads on the floor between the clutch and the brake pedals with their legs hanging over the back of the front seat! If they had installed a few radios in their dashboards, I think they would have quickly invented ways to put hinges on the things to ease the installation problems.

During the week following, I installed several more antennas in new cars, using the methods I was taught in that first and only two-minute lesson - I had "learned the business", at least the antenna installation part. I can still remember the customer, who after purchasing a radio in the shop, waited near his new car for the installation to take place. He gulped and his eyes widened, as this skinny fifteen year old kid approached his shiny new car, just minutes out of the showroom, carrying a gigantic drill. He paled as I casually drilled the two huge holes, one above the other in his shiny new fender. He began to relax as I added the antenna insulators, covering the large holes, and was visibly relieved when I finished my installation chores, carrying my huge drill back inside the store.

I left Schneider's after the second week, when I joined my family on a tour through the South. This first radio job had lasted only two weeks, but I was already an experienced antenna installer! While I did watch Schneider make some radio repairs on the bench, knowledge-wise, I was still at the crystal set level. I decided at that point that money was more important to me than becoming a skilled radio repairman, so I found a higher paying job in a can factory, paying forty cents an hour or sixteen dollars a week - big pay for a fifteen year old kid.

Years later while in college, I did have a radio repair business, operating out of my basement. Indeed, I had "learned the business".

Fig. 1

The Hoover Cup

by Harry Hyder

In 1947 the City of Roswell, New Mexico, became famous because of the supposed crash of an alien space ship.

In the radio world of the early 1920s Roswell was noted for being the home of 5ZA, the amateur station of Louis Falconi. Falconi had won the Hoover cup for 1921.

In the 1920s, all radio communication, commercial and amateur, came under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. Herbert Hoover was Secretary of Commerce. Hoover was sympathetic toward amateur radio; his son, Herbert Jr., later became a ham. Secretary Hoover decided to award a trophy to "The owner of the best all-around amateur station in operation during 1921 the major portion of which has been designed and constructed by the amateur himself." The trophy would be a 10 inch high silver cup, suitably engraved, shown in fig. 1.

A commitee of judges would be appointed by the ARRL. Items to be considered would be ingenuity and neatness of construction, level of station activity, distances covered and even completeness of the log book.

5ZA was equipped with both CW and spark transmitters. The CW

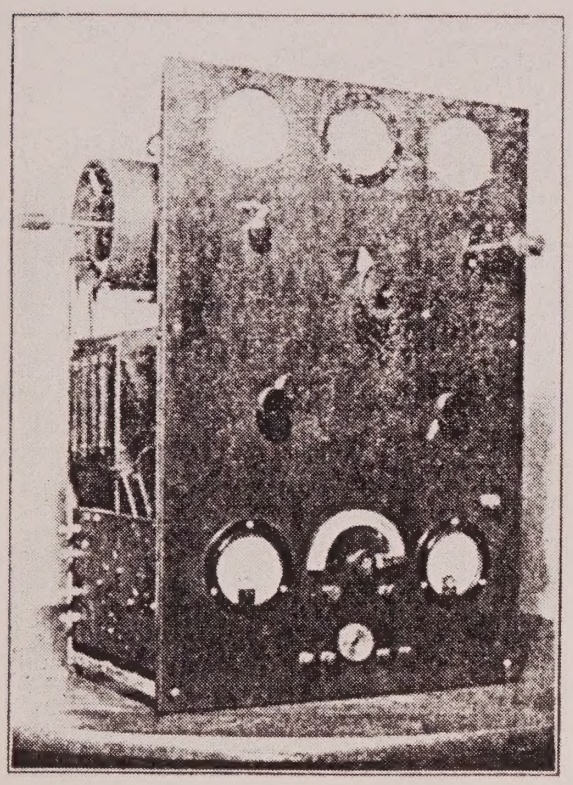


Fig. 2

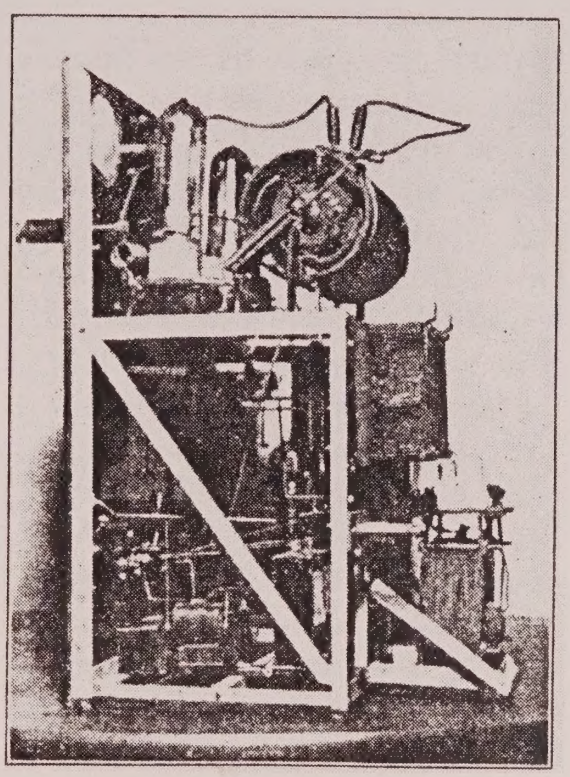


Fig. 3

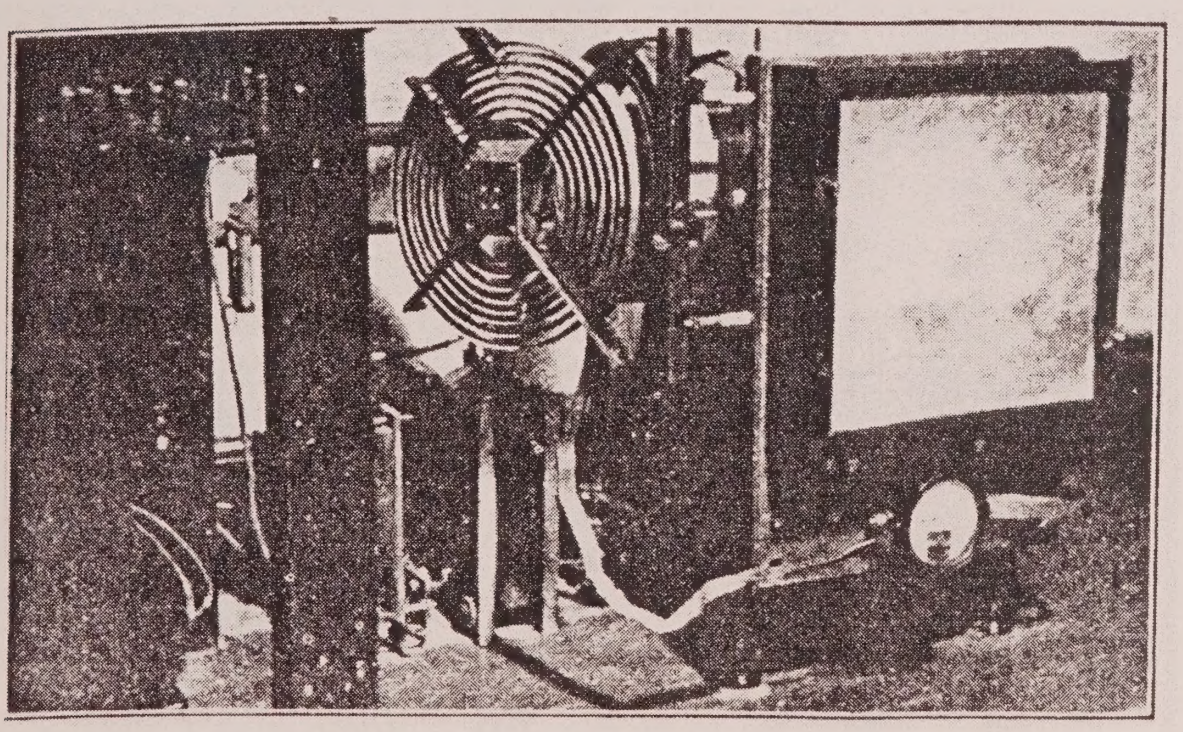


Fig. 4

transmitter could be used for either code or radiotelephone. Four 50-watters (UV-203) in parallel were for code work. For telephony, two of the 50-watters became modulators. There was also a UV-202 used as a speech amplifier. The CW transmitter is shown in figs. 2 and 3.

The spark transmitter, fig.4, had a 1.0 kW transformer, a synchronous rotary gap and an oscillation transformer made of heavy copper strap.

By 1921, the spark set was much less used than the CW set.

The receiver at 5ZA used a regenerative detector with variometer control of regeneration plus two audio amplifier stages. The set was built by Falconi using standard parts.

The antenna at 5ZA was of the "T"type, four phosphor bronze wires on 14 foot spreaders. The flat top was 90 feet long and was supported by two 67 foot masts. The antenna is shown in fig. 5.

5ZA had been heard in every state except Maine and had been reported heard in Hawaii, Canada and by ships at sea. 5ZA handled a large volume of message traffic. In 1921, of course, all amateur operation was in the vicinity of 200 meters, 1500 kHz.

5ZA was truly an outstanding station.

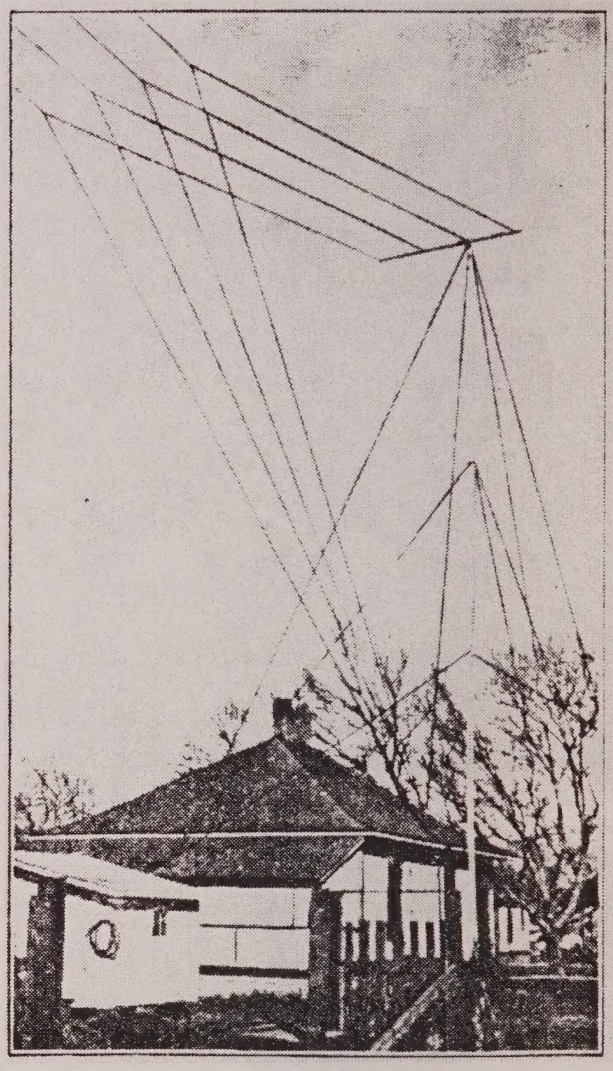
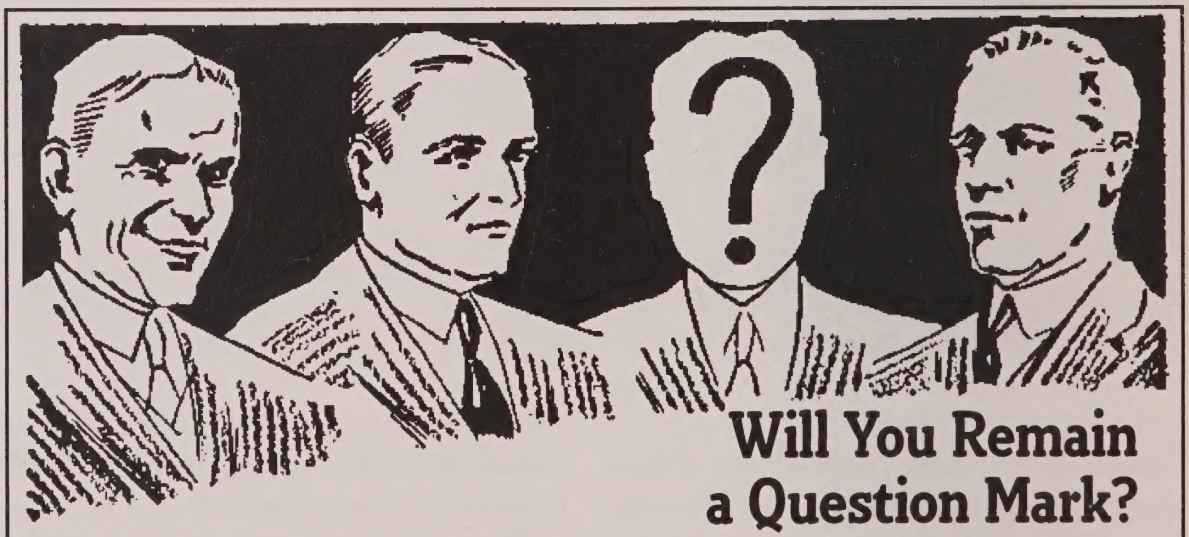


Fig. 5



Will You Remain a Question Mark?

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